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keys and wherein when the second set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, both the detailed program description and the television program displayed in the video window are updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing.

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REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-36 and 52-54 are pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1-36 and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 (hereinafter "LaJoie") in view of Yuen et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,147,715 (hereinafter "Yuen").

Summary Of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 13, and 25 without prejudice. Claims 2, 5-12, 14, 17-24, 26, 29-36, and 52-54 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. (These Remarks are followed by an Appendix showing how these claims have been amended.) Claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 27, and 28 are also in the case. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.



Applicants' Reply To The Rejection  
Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-36 and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie in view of Yuen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claims 1, 13, and 25, applicants have cancelled claims 1, 13, and 25 without prejudice, incorporating their features into dependent claims 52-54, respectively. Applicants have also amended other claims so that all dependent claims depend, directly or indirectly, from one of claims 52-54.

As set forth in independent claims 52-54, applicants' invention is directed towards an interactive television program guide that simultaneously displays (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing. The user is allowed to position a highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast. When the user uses a first set of keys to position the highlight region, both the highlight region and the detailed



description are updated to correspond to the new program listing, while the video window remains unchanged. When the user uses a second set of keys, which are not the same as any of the first set of keys, to position the highlight region, the detailed description and the video window are updated to correspond to the new program listing.

Through the use of two different sets of remote control keys, applicants' invention allows a user to choose between updating the program in the video window to correspond with the program listed in the highlight region or not updating the program in the video window to correspond with the program listed in the highlight region. Both functionalities can be selectively performed in the same screen without having to change the mode of the system.

Yuen describes a television system with a television viewing mode and a guide mode. The guide mode includes an electronic program guide (EPG) and a tape index guide (TIG). In both guide modes, a program (e.g., television program, VCR program, etc.) is displayed in the picture-in-picture (PIP) window while the guide information is displayed in the background. The user is able to switch between guide modes (e.g., EPG and TIG) and the types of



programs (e.g., television, VCR, etc.) displayed in the PIP window.

In the obviousness rejection based on Yuen, the Examiner observed that it is possible to have the program displayed in the PIP window correspond to the highlighted program listing and detailed description. The Examiner also observed that it is possible for the program displayed in the PIP window to be different from the highlighted program listing and detailed description (e.g., when a video is playing in the VCR and the EPG screen is being displayed). In particular, the Examiner asserts that, "Yuen shows a remote control (Fig. 2) with a plurality of keys that performs exactly the same feature" as applicants' invention.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Yuen only shows one set of arrow buttons 36 and 38 on remote controller 26 in FIG. 2. In stark contrast, applicants' invention has a first set of keys and a second set of keys, none of the second set of keys being the same as the first set of keys, for positioning the highlight region (see, e.g., applicants' FIG. 4 illustrating channel up and down keys 52 and up, down, left, and right cursor keys 54).

The two sets of remote control keys in applicants' invention allow the user to browse the listings in two ways



within the same guide screen (e.g., the content of the video window remains unchanged when the highlight region is positioned with cursor keys 54, while the content of the video window is updated to correspond to the highlighted program listing when the highlight region is positioned with channel up and down keys 52). The user is browsing the same set of listings in one EPG screen, but is choosing whether or not to update the program displayed in the video window by which set of keys the user uses to position the highlight region.

In contrast, Yuen requires that the user change screens (e.g., guide modes) to switch the functionality of the PIP window (e.g., the user is able to switch between television mode and guide mode and further between EPG and TIG). The GUIDE/TV button is used to enter the EPG guide mode when a regularly telecast program is being watched (alternatively, pushing GUIDE/TV while watching a VCR program invokes the tape index guide). The GUIDE/TV, INDEX, and PLAY buttons are used to influence which guide mode the system enters. Once the guide mode is selected in Yuen, the user uses arrow buttons 36 and 38 to position the highlight region. In other words, one set of arrow keys is shown for positioning the highlight region, and the PIP window is or is



not updated to correspond with the highlight region depending on which mode the guide is in, not depending on which of two or more separate sets of keys is used to position the highlight region. Therefore, Yuen does not show two separate sets of remote control keys for selectively operating the PIP window within one guide mode.

LaJoie also fails to show this feature of applicants' invention. LaJoie is directed toward a cable television system with an interactive program guide. The interactive program guide simultaneously displays (a) a navigable program grid, (b) a program cursor for highlighting any one of the programs in the program grid, (c) a program viewing window, and (d) a highlighted program summary which includes a brief description (see column 23, line 44 to column 24, line 15 of LaJoie). LaJoie does not discuss updating the program viewing window to correspond to the highlighted program cell. Rather, LaJoie says, "[p]rogram viewing window 340 displays a reduced size display of the normal television display so that the program being viewed prior to entering the program guide may continue to be viewed while in the guide" (column 23, lines 56-59). Thus, LaJoie does not show two sets of keys for positioning the highlight region, one of which causes the program displayed in the



program viewing window to correspond to the highlighted program cell and the other leaving the program displayed in the program viewing window unchanged.

Neither Yuen, nor LaJoie, nor any combination of the two teach or show the features of applicants' invention as defined by independent claims 52-54. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, applicants' invention cannot be rendered obvious by LaJoie, Yuen, or any combination of the two. The Examiner's rejection of claims 52-54 should therefore be withdrawn. Because claims 52-54 are allowable, claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-36, which depend from independent claims 52-54, are also allowable. Thus, claims 2-12, 14-24, 26-36, and 52-54 are in condition for allowance.

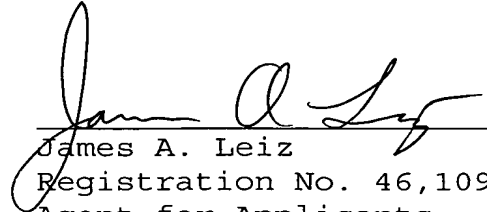
#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 2-12, 14-24, 26-36, and 52-54 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance.



Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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APPENDIX  
(SHOWING AMENDED CLAIMS  
2, 5-12, 14, 17-24, 26, 29-36, AND 52-54))

2. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 further comprising means for synchronizing the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing after the user has positioned the highlight region on a new program listing with the first set of remote control keys.

5. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [3] 52 wherein the [means for synchronizing further comprises means for providing the user with the opportunity to synchronize the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing using] second set of remote control keys are remote control channel up and down keys.

6. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [3] 52 [wherein the means for synchronizing] further [comprises] comprising means for allowing the user to change the channel for the television program that is displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel with the second set of remote control keys [while



simultaneously positioning the highlight region on top of the program listing for that channel in the program list].

7. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 wherein the [means for allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises means for allowing the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control cursor keys.

8. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 wherein the [means for allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises means for allowing the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control page up and down keys.

9. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 wherein the [means for allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises means for allowing the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control numeric keys.

10. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 further comprising means



for providing the user with an opportunity to display an information screen containing an additional description of the highlighted program listing.

11. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 further comprising means for providing the user with an opportunity to return to normal television viewing from the simultaneously displayed program list, video window, and detailed program description.

12. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [1] 52 [wherein the means for positioning the highlight region further comprises means for positioning the highlight region whenever the user presses channel keys, the system] further comprising:

[means for changing the channel of the television program displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel whenever the user presses one of the channel keys; and]

means for displaying the program list with the highlight region repositioned at the top of the list on top of a program listing for [the] an adjacent channel whenever the program listing for the adjacent channel does not appear on the program list when the user presses one of the [channel keys to change channels] first or second set of keys to



position the highlight region on the program listing for the adjacent channel.

14. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 further comprising synchronizing the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing after the user has positioned the highlight region on a new program listing with the first set of remote control keys.

17. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [15] 53 wherein [synchronizing the television program further comprises providing the user with the opportunity to synchronize the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing with] the second set of remote control keys are remote control channel up and down keys.

18. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [15] 53 [wherein synchronizing the television program] further [comprises] comprising allowing the user to change the channel for the television program that is displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel with the second set of remote control keys [while simultaneously positioning the highlight region on top of the program listing for that channel in the program list].



19. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 wherein [allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises allowing the user to position the highlight region with] the first set of remote control keys are remote control cursor keys.

20. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 wherein [allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises allowing the user to position the highlight region with] the first set of remote control keys are remote control page up and down keys.

21. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 wherein [allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises allowing the user to position the highlight region with] the first set of remote control keys are remote control numeric keys.

22. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to display an information screen containing an additional description of the highlighted program listing.

23. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to return to normal television viewing from the



simultaneously displayed program list, video window, and detailed program description.

24. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim [13] 53 [wherein allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises allowing the user to position the highlight region whenever the user presses channel keys, the method] further comprising:

[changing the channel of the television program displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel whenever the user presses one of the channel keys; and]

displaying the program list with the highlight region repositioned at the top of the list on top of a program listing for [the] an adjacent channel whenever the program listing for the adjacent channel does not appear on the program list when the user presses one of the [channel keys to change channels] first or second set of keys to position the highlight region on the program listing for the adjacent channel.

26. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the user television equipment is configured to synchronize the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing after the user has positioned the highlight



region on a new program listing with the first set of remote control keys.

29. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [27] 54 wherein [the user television equipment is configured to provide the user with the opportunity to synchronize the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing using] the second set of remote control keys are remote control channel up and down keys.

30. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [27] 54 wherein the user television equipment is configured to allow the user to change the channel for the television program that is displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel with the second set of remote control keys [while simultaneously positioning the highlight region on top of the program listing for that channel in the program list].

31. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the [user television equipment is configured to allow the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control cursor keys.



32. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the [user television equipment is configured to allow the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control page up and down keys.

33. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the [user television equipment is configured to allow the user to position the highlight region with] first set of remote control keys are remote control numeric keys.

34. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the user television equipment is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to display an information screen containing an additional description of the highlighted program listing.

35. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the user television equipment is configured to provide the user with an opportunity to return to normal television viewing from the simultaneously displayed program list, video window, and detailed program description.



36. (Amended) The interactive television program guide system defined in claim [25] 54 wherein the user television equipment is configured to display the program list with the highlight region repositioned at the top of the list on top of a program listing for [the] an adjacent channel whenever the program listing for the adjacent channel does not appear on the program list when the user presses one of the [channel keys to change channels] first or the second set of keys to position the highlight region on the program listing for the adjacent channel.

52. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

means for simultaneously displaying (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing;



means for allowing the user to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast;

[The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises:]

means for allowing the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a first set of remote control keys, wherein when the first set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, the detailed program description is updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing while the television program displayed in the video window remains unchanged; and

means for allowing the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a second set of remote control keys, wherein the second set of remote control keys are not the same as any of the first set of remote control keys and wherein when the second set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, both the detailed program description and the television program displayed in the video window are updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing.



53. (Amended) A method for using an interactive television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

simultaneously displaying (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing;

allowing the user to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast;

[The method defined in claim 13 wherein allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises:]

allowing the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a first set of remote control keys, wherein when the first set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, the detailed program description is updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing while the



television program displayed in the video window remains unchanged; and

allowing the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a second set of remote control keys, wherein the second set of remote control keys are not the same as any of the first set of remote control keys and wherein when the second set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, both the detailed program description and the television program displayed in the video window are updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing.

54. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system comprising user television equipment configured to:

simultaneously display (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing;



allow the user to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast;

[The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 25 wherein allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises:]

allow[ing] the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a first set of remote control keys, wherein when the first set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, the detailed program description is updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing while the television program displayed in the video window remains unchanged; and

allow[ing] the user to position the highlight region in the program list with a second set of remote control keys, wherein the second set of remote control keys are not the same as any of the first set of remote control keys and wherein when the second set of remote control keys is used to position the highlight region on a new program listing, both the detailed program description and the television program displayed in the video window are updated to correspond with the highlighted program listing.